

2025
ISSUE 85

CHALGRAVE NEWS

Celebrating Chalgrave



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Day/Date	Event	Location	Time
Third Tuesday of each month	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
Second Tuesday of each month	WI	Memorial Hall	8.00 pm
4th Weds. of each month	Pop-Up tea room	Memorial Hall	11-1

Thank you to Sandy Ryan for the cover photograph

Annual Sponsorship Rates

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Quarter Page Colour £50.00	B&W £35.00
Half Page Colour £80.00	B&W £60.00
Full Page Colour £135.00	B&W £110.00

Deadline for next edition: 15 May 2025

Please send your contributions to: thechalgravenews@gmail.com

The Chalgrave News team produces the Chalgrave News in good faith and we do all we can to ensure that no offence is caused to any individual or organisation. We also reserve the right not to publish articles and contributions submitted to us if they do not comply with our policy.

A note from the editorial team

Welcome to our Spring magazine, what a wet and windy start we have had too!

It is however wonderful to see the Daffodils and snowdrops making an appearance and getting us in the mood for the sunny days ahead.

We are grateful to Sandy Ryan for the great photo of Linda Washington on the front cover. Read about her on pages 16&17.

Please make a note to come along to

Parish Assembly evening at the Memorial Hall

7.30pm on 10 April

Great opportunity to meet up,
have your say if you want to or just listen .

Drinks and nibbles supplied.

Other events coming up

FISH & CHIPS BINGO SATURDAY, 3 May—see page 35

POP UP TEA ROOM - see page 29 for details

EGGSTRAVAGANZA - SATURDAY 9 April—see page 38

QUIZ NIGHT - 26 April—see page 9

CAR SHOW—13 July—see page 13

CHALGRAVE GAMES—5 July—see page 7

So much to look forward to!

Have a lovely Easter break .

Take lots of photos and send them to

The Chalgrave News Team



Chair of the Parish Council

Bus Survey – have your say.

We no longer have a bus service running through our Parish. We are conducting a Bus Survey to see if there is a need for a regular bus service. If there are enough people who would use a bus on a regular basis, we could approach Central Beds.

We have a Survey on the Chalgrave Parish Council Facebook page. We are aware that not everyone uses Facebook so if you would like to add your voice to the Survey, please contact the Clerk, Lesley Smith, or any of the Parish Councillors by phone, text or email. Contact details are on the back page of this magazine.



The Survey questions are:

- Do you want a resumption of a daily bus service from Tebworth and Wingfield?
- If there is a regular bus service, would you use it?
- If yes, what destinations would you want to go to? (Toddington, Dunstable, Houghton Regis, other?)
- How frequently did you use the bus when in service?
- If you seldom used the bus service what was the reason?
- How often would you use the bus if the service was resumed?

We are keeping the survey open until the end of April.

Potholes. We are aware of the number of potholes in the Parish. They have all been reported to CBC Highways. By the time you are reading this, the particularly deep and dangerous one outside the Chapel will have been repaired.

Gulleys. The gulleys in the Parish are due to be cleared in March. It is hoped that this will cure the flooding on Toddington Road outside the Queens Head and down The Lane.

Tebworth Great Pond. The pond is due to be surveyed in the Spring. We will then be in a position to develop a plan of work.

Rev. Washington. Whilst Linda is no longer our Rector we are pleased to know that she will still be involved in *some Parish activities*. *We wished her well in her*

Chair of the Parish Council

retirement and thanked her for her time in our Church and Parish.

Chalgrave Manor Solar Farm. We understand that work on this solar farm will commence in the Spring.

Tebworth Solar farm. We are still waiting to meet up with the developers to discuss the community benefit.

Our **Parish Assembly** is on the 10th April at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. It is an informal event where representatives of our local organisations will give a short update of their activities as will our Police and Crime Commissioner, John Tizzard. This is followed by drinks and 'nibbles' where you can discuss any issues with the PC, PCC or local organisations.

Central Beds Council. We regularly report and chase issues with flooding, gulleys, potholes, fly tipping, etc. to CBC. The response from the Council can be very slow and sometimes non-existent. We repeatedly chase. This lack of communication sometimes reflects badly on the Parish Council but please be assured that we are working hard to get things done.

Phil Parry, Chair.



ALEX MAYER - MP FOR DUNSTABLE AND LEIGHTON BUZZARD

A5/B1520 Roundabout: I know many people have concerns about the A5/B1520 Roundabout. I raised this directly with National Highways, who say they will alter the roundabout junction layout and reinstate the two-lane entry/exit for A5 traffic. Changes, including resurfacing and new signage, should help make the roundabout safer, reduce queues and start in spring.



Safer Streets: I met the Policing Minister, and I am pleased that Bedfordshire Police's budget is now increasing to £167 million which will help strengthen neighbourhood policing. I will soon be voting for a new law to close a loophole allowing shoplifters to escape justice if they steal goods worth under £200 and to make attacking a shopworker a standalone criminal offence.

Fixing Potholes: Potholes are a big issue that we need to get to grips with. The Government has increased the amount of funding to Central Bedfordshire to patch them up to over £9.6 million.

Improving Transport: As a member of Parliament's Transport Select Committee, I'm working to make getting from A to B easier. I successfully pushed for an inquiry into bus services outside major cities. I also secured a commitment from the DVSA to tackle long driving test waiting times after one local person was told they needed to wait an entire year! I also continue to back East-West Rail.

Trees: As the Chair of Parliament's Woods and Trees "All-Party Group" I brought together a coalition of environmental campaigners, businesses, charities, and parliamentarians to urge urgent action to plant and protect more trees right across the country. I'm working with the Woodland Trust and cross-party colleagues to strengthen protections for ancient trees and promote tree planting to protect flood-prone areas like Bedfordshire.

If you have any issues that I can be of assistance with, please do not hesitate to get in touch on alex.mayer.mp@parliament.uk or 01525 301390.

Chalgrave Memorial Hall

Frances Masters, who has been actively involved in the management of the hall for 20 plus years has taken the decision to step down from the hall committee. The hall are very grateful for the time that she and Roger have put into the hall over many years.



In order for the hall to function properly we need committee members to help run the hall. The commitment is one evening per month and helping with the general running and upkeep of the hall. If you are interested please contact either John or Will via email. will.randell.wr@gmail.com or john.wojdyla@btinternet.com

Due to rising running costs the Hall has had to increase its hire rates. We have taken this difficult decision as if we do not do this we are renting the hall at a loss, which is unsustainable.

We have an Easter Event planned for the 19th April and the ever popular Village Games will be on the 5th July

Will Randell

The Chalgrave News is a free magazine to all homes in the parish.

Please log on to view the magazine online including past issues.

www.chalgrave-pc.gov.uk

or

Check out the Chalgrave News Facebook page

Chalgrave Sports Club



This year, the CSC club dinner took place at The Chequers in Westoning, where 16 of us gathered for an evening filled with delicious food, drinks, medal presentations, and lots of laughs.

After last year's event at a different venue, which was a bit of a disaster, we were hoping for a better experience — and The Chequers definitely delivered.



The evening kicked off with Paul, our club treasurer, mistakenly filling a candle holder with water from his jug thinking it was a water glass, only realising his mix-up when the candle floated to the surface! Our club chairman, Phil Parry, presented medals (with an uncharacteristically short speech) to six outstanding individuals who completed the 2024 Mile a Day Challenge. . Overcoming injuries, illness, and the motivation to get out there every day, no matter the circumstances, is a massive achievement. Great respect and congratulations to Mike, Amanda, Roy, Linda, Kevin, and Simon, as well as to those who couldn't be with us for this well-earned recognition. Amazingly, all 6 medal winners are also taking part in MAD 2025, with Roy and Linda looking to complete their second consecutive year, and Mike, Amanda, Kevin, and Simon well on their way to completing MAD 1000 later this year (one thousand consecutive days of running or walking a mile).

Up coming events include another Gokarting Grand Prix at the end of February and the Club is starting the next Couch to 5k training group on 30 April 2025. Contact the Club or any of the Committee to join the group.

Our Yoga classes continue on Monday evenings in the Memorial Hall, you are very welcome to join us - and we have a Park Run at Houghton Hall on the first Saturday of the month 9.00

Chalgrave Sports Club



Finally, back by popular demand, the best quiz of the year returns to Chalgrave Memorial Hall with the CSC Fun Quiz Night taking place on Saturday 26 April 2025.

Tickets are on sale now via the Chalgrave Sports Club website or any of the Committee members.

Simon Gatward and Phil Parry

Would YOU like to help make a lasting difference to future generations of children growing up in Chalgrave and Hockliffe parish?

Educational grants are available to every local child and young person through West's Educational Charity.

The charity originates from the £400 will legacy of Francis West, in 1690. Nowadays, the charity provides biannual grants for the educational activities of young people under 24 years of age living in the parishes. If you would like to find out about how you could support the continuation of this wonderful local charity by donating or even leaving a gift in your own will, please visit the Chalgrave Parish Council website or contact Lesley Smith on **01525 874716** to find out more.



Meeting Update

In December Annie Fowler arranged a great meal out at the No 1 Kitchen in Leighton Buzzard. Sixteen of us attended and, after a slight panic about whether alcohol would be available (it was!), we had a great evening and really enjoyed the Turkish food.



We also had a very entertaining Christmas social and games evening with a quiz set by Lesley Mead.

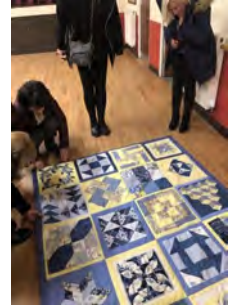


In **January** volunteer River Warden, Jim Coley, spoke to us about safeguarding our rivers. It was rather sobering stuff – with details of the rising pollution levels and the decline of many wildlife species. The different volunteer regions link together to help



to fight river pollution and to identify invasive species. More information about getting involved can be found using the below link. <http://ubocp.org.uk/get-involved/river-wardens/>

In **February** Kay Goddard told us about The Patterned Road to Freedom. The story of how codes and quilts helped slaves to flee to safety in Canada using the Underground Railroad. A safe house was indicated by a quilt hanging from a clothesline or windowsill. These quilts were embedded with a code, so that by reading the shapes and motifs sewn into the design, an enslaved person on the run could know the area's immediate dangers or even where to head next.



- **Bow Tie** = Dress in disguise to appear of a higher status
- **Bear Paw** = Follow an animal trail to find water and food
- **Log Cabin** = Seek shelter the people here are safe to speak to
- **Drunkard's Path** = Zig-zag as you go to throw off hounds
- **Double Wedding Ring** = Safe to remove your chains/shackles



Ruth Francis-Foster arranged a "Back in Time for Tea" visit to the Old White Horse, Hockliffe. There was a delicious afternoon tea followed by a ghost hunt where they were split into two groups. One group went up into the oldest bedroom (complete with

priest hole) and the other group went down into the cellar.

A very enjoyable afternoon.

Clubs Our **Book Group** – led by Sue Watling, meets on the fourth Thursday of the month. Some of us will be attending the Aldeburgh Literary Festival in March. Bern Inzani runs our **Supper club** which meets on the third Friday of the month at different restaurants.

Tracy Malster leads our **Craft club** which runs on the third Monday of the month at Chalgrave Memorial Hall from 7 to 9pm.

Future Meetings We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 8pm in Chalgrave Memorial Hall, Wingfield Road, Tebworth, LU7 9QQ. We typically have a number of additional outings and events throughout the year.



Date	Details
Tue-11-Mar-25	The World War II History of Bletchley Park.
Tue-08-Apr-25	A Walk through the West End Musicals. Richard Stark is a charismatic entertainer with an eclectic range of musical styles. His musical background began with playing the cello as well as playing guitar in a rock band. He has performed at theatres, concert halls, the Hilton Park Lane, and Glastonbury Festival.
Tue-13-May-25	AGM with Quiz and Social
Tue-10-Jun-25	Ameyzoo- Zoologist and Animal Trainer for film and television Mark Amey is a lifelong exotic and domestic animal keeper/breeder, zoologist, environmentalist and conservationist. He has worked as an animal trainer for film and TV, provides educational talks and appeared on the children's TV show TMI. He has a private zoo and exotic pet shop. www.markameyzoo.co.uk
Tue-08-Jul-25	Adventures of a Ghost Hunter Published author, historian and public speaker, Damien O'Dell will share his personal experiences of ghosts and haunted houses, spanning over 40 years of paranormal investigation. Damien leads his own group, APIS (Anglia Paranormal Investigation Society). He will include a section on 'Local Haunts'
Tue-09-Sep-25	Life in Retirement as a TV/Film Extra Ex soldier and retired police officer, Robert Brewer, talks about how he fell into the TV/Film industry after a visit to his local library. Over the last 6 years he has been on over 40 different features. From Hollywood Blockbusters (Batman, Bond, Wonder Woman) low budget films (Blinded by the Light) to TV dramas, soaps and comedies and even a couple of adverts.
Tue-14-Oct-25	Lucy Lewis - First female Bomb Disposal Officer Lucy reveals the hidden world of bomb disposal training and how she became the UK's first female bomb disposal expert. From joining Sandhurst to rushing to her first bomb disposal call out
Tue-11-Nov-25	TBC
Tue-09-Dec-25	Christmas Social
Tue-13-Jan-26	Ventriloquist and Comedy Magician. David Tomkins is a Speciality Ventriloquist and Comedy Magician. He will perform something completely different, varied and entertaining!
Tue-10-Feb-26	The Great Train Robbery Nick Cooke who will be talking about The Great Train Robbery which took place in 1963. He will tell us how the robbery came about, how they stopped the train, some of the main personalities, their hideout and their eventual capture.
Tue-10-Mar-26	TBC



CHALGRAVE WI Book Club

The WI book group meets on the fourth Thursday of the month, at 7.30pm. There are currently 13 of us and we meet in group member's houses, or a local pub, often The Oddfellows in Toddington. We take it in turns to choose the books we read, covering all genres and tastes. Not everyone always finishes the book by the meeting date but the rule is to be prepared for spoilers, if you've not got to the end in time!

If you are interested in joining the WI book group please contact Sue (sue.watling@hotmail.com) You do need to be a member of Chalgrave WI to join this group.

In December we didn't have a book choice as everyone is so busy!

In January we read *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult and co-author Jennifer Finney Boylan

Olivia fled her abusive marriage to return to her hometown and take over the family beekeeping business when her son Asher was six. Now, impossibly, her baby is six feet tall and in his last year of high school, a kind, good-looking, popular ice hockey star with a tiny sprite of a new girlfriend. Lily also knows what it feels like to start over - when she and her mother relocated to New Hampshire it was all about a fresh start. She and Asher couldn't help falling for each other, and Lily feels happy for the first time. But can she trust him completely? Then Olivia gets a phone call - Lily is dead, and Asher is arrested on a charge of murder. As the case against him unfolds, she realises he has hidden more than he's shared with her. And Olivia knows firsthand that the secrets we keep reflect the past we want to leave behind --- and that we rarely know the people we love well as we think we do. We learnt lots about bee keeping and much more besides! This book led to many interesting discussions at our monthly meeting, as new topics were revealed as you read further into the book: I won't give the storyline away. An enjoyable and thought provoking read.



In February we read *A Year Of Marvellous Ways* by Sarah Winman

Marvellous Ways is eighty-nine years old and has lived alone in a remote Cornish creek for nearly all her life. Lately she's taken to spending her days sitting on a mooring stone by the river with a telescope. She's waiting for something - she's not sure what, but she'll know it when she sees it. Drake is a young soldier left reeling by the Second World War. When his promise to fulfil a dying man's last wish sees him wash up in Marvellous' creek, broken in body and spirit, the old woman comes to his aid. *A Year of Marvellous Ways* is a glorious, life-affirming story about the magic in everyday life and the pull of the sea, the healing powers of storytelling and sloe gin, love and death and how we carry on when grief comes snapping at our heels.



Chalgrave Church

Dates for your diary.

Pop Up Tea Room: 11am-1pm

Chalgrave Memorial Hall

January 22nd, February 26th, March 6th,
April 23rd, May 28th, June 25th, July 23rd.

No Pop Up in August.

September 24th, October 22nd,
November 26th, December 10th.

Afternoon Tea & Toddington Town Band

Saturday, May 17th 2-4pm

Please book with Alison Stone

email: alisonstone.as1@gmail.com

or **mobile** 07771897451

Booking is required for catering purposes.

Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday November 8th

11am-4pm Chalgrave Memorial Hall



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Chalgrave Church - From Sandy Ryan

Last Sunday we shared in the last services for Rev. Linda Washington's retirement. We had a Benefice communion followed by a bring and share meal. Then at 3pm we had a service of Songs of Praise with refreshments in the Wilkinson Hall. This allowed everyone to wish Linda well in her retirement.

We will miss her, but we know it was the right time for her and Nigel to have time to relax.

Happy Retirement Linda!



We will have a period of interregnum, during which we will continue to have our regular 9:30 am services at All Saints Church, Chalgrave. Archdeacon Dave covered the first service and it was great to have him lead the service.

The process to appoint a new Rector starts with a vacancy meeting with Bishop Richard and Archdeacon Dave Middleton. This will be held on Thursday, 27 March at 7:30pm in the Wilkinson Hall in Toddington.

The Archdeacon will explain the vacancy and Bishop Richard will lead discussion about joys and opportunities in our parishes as well as the challenges and aspirations. They will welcome an open discussion to give everyone an opportunity to express their thoughts and ideas. There will be the opportunity to ask questions. Broad input is important and useful in developing the "Parish Profile". Please come to participate in this process which is not only important to the local churches, but to all the communities.



Chalgrave Church - From Sandy Ryan

Upcoming Services:

- March- Sunday Communion Services 9:30am
- 5 March Benefice Ash Wednesday evening service TTBC at St Georges
- 16 March APCM 11am Chalgrave

Easter Services:

- ◆ 17 April Maundy Thursday service at Toddington 7pm
- ◆ 18 April Good Friday 10am Reflective service Chalgrave ,
2pm Hour by the Cross, Toddington
- ◆ 20 April Easter Day 9:30 am Holy Communion Chalgrave
- ◆ 27 April Benefice service 11am Toddington

Our fundraising team are all busy planning our activities.

Our Pop Up tea room continues the 4th Wednesday of each month.

On 17 May we will have an Afternoon Tea with Toddington Town Band

2-4pm. Cost is £25 and can be booked with Alison on

alisonstone.as1@gmail.com Hopefully, the weather will be good and we can hold this in the church grounds.

The Christmas Craft Fair is booked at Tebworth Memorial Hall for Saturday, 8 November.

We welcome you to join us for the church services, meetings and all our activities. We are a small but very welcoming group and hope to see you.

More Church Bulletins



Yes, these actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services!

- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a crèche downstairs
- The Rector will preach his last sermon after which the choir will sing 'Break Forth Into Joy'
- Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered!
- The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

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2PM-4PM
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Jane's famous Chocolate Guinness Cake

FOR THE CAKE

250 millilitres Guinness
250 grams unsalted butter
75 grams cocoa powder
400 grams caster sugar
150 millilitres sour cream
2 large eggs
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
275 grams plain flour
2½ teaspoons bicarb of soda

Yields: about 12 slices or you can do individual cup cakes.

FOR THE TOPPING

300 grams cream cheese
150 grams icing sugar
2 teaspoons cornflour
125 millilitres double cream (or whipping cream)



METHOD

Preheat the oven to gas mark 4/180°C/160° Fan/350°F, and butter and line a 23cm / 9 inch springform tin.

Pour the Guinness into a large wide saucepan, add the butter — in spoons or slices — and heat until the butter's melted, at which time you should whisk in the cocoa and sugar. Whisk in the flour and bicarb.

Beat the sour cream with the eggs and vanilla and then pour into the brown, buttery, beery pan and finally pour the cake batter into the greased and lined tin and bake for 45 minutes to an hour. Leave to cool completely in the tin on a cooling rack, as it is quite a damp cake.

When the cake's cold, sit it on a flat platter or cake stand and get on with the icing. Lightly whip the cream cheese until smooth, sieve over the icing sugar and cornflour and then beat to combine.

If using double cream, add it and beat until you have a spreadable consistency. If using whipping cream, whisk first to soft peaks, add a couple of spoonfuls into the cream cheese mixture and once this is combined, fold in the rest. Ice the top of the black cake so that it resembles the frothy top of the famous pint.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MAKE AHEAD / STORE: The cake can be stored, without icing, in an airtight container in a cool place for up to 5 days. Store the iced cake in an airtight container in the fridge for 1-2 days. The un-iced cake can be frozen, wrapped in a double layer of food wrap and a layer of foil, for up to 3 months. Unwrap and thaw at room temperature for about 4 hours.





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CHALGRAVE MEMORIAL HALL

TEBWORTH LU7 9QQ

POP UP TEA ROOM

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EVERY 4TH WEDNESDAY 11AM-1PM

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OCTOBER 22ND

NOVEMBER 26TH

DECEMBER 10TH

CHALGRAVE CHURCH AND CHALGRAVE MEMORIAL HALL:
WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE COMMUNITY

Wild Chalgrave - build a bug hotel

A great project to do this Spring, is to get outside and build a bug hotel.

A bug hotel is a construction that offers shelter to invertebrates, either to overwinter, breed or spend their daily lives.

There are no rules on how to build a bug hotel, it can be any size to suit any space and can be made from a variety of materials. (But not treated wood.) Building a bug hotel will encourage pollinators and pest predators into your garden and is a great way to repurpose many items, natural or manmade.

What will live in my bug box?

YEAR ROUND

Wood Lice
Centipedes
Millipedes
Earwigs
Ground Beetles
Spiders

WINTERING

Ladybirds
Lacewings
Butterflies
Moths
Hoverflies

BREEDING

Solitary wasps
Solitary Bees
Deadwood beetles



Wild Chalgrave - build a bug hotel

Materials for my bug hotel

Natural

Hollow stems
Bamboo canes
Stones
Dry seed heads
Pine cones
Straw or hay
Old bark
Deadwood

Man made

Tiles
Bricks
Pipes
Cardboard
Plant pots
Rubble
Drilled holes
In wood



Please share photos of your bug hotels with us
at the Chalgrave News.

A useful website is;
www.buglife.org.uk

Another Trip Down Memory Lane

I spent a lot of time at the Queen's Head as a child!

The landlords - the Baileys - had a daughter my age, so Dawn and I spent many happy hours in the beer garden on the swing!

I must confess to frequent visits to The Plough in Wingfield on Sunday mornings too when my father used to cycle with me on my pony and would buy a pint for himself and one for Judy while I enjoyed a lemonade.

An important part of life in the village was Tithe Farm. On a personal level I played for hours with Jane and Susan Heady around the farm buildings and in the paddocks. We used to collect the eggs from the hens using the nesting boxes in the barn as well as those secreting them around the orchard. In season we collected blackberries, picked plums and pulled watercress from the beds in the stream on the farm's land up the Chalgrave Road.



(The old Queens Head before it burnt down)

How lucky I was to have so many children to play with in the various streams down The Lane and on the Toddington and Chalgrave roads. We took jam jars to catch newts, walked through the tunnels from one side of the road to the other, got wet and muddy and enjoyed ourselves no end.

The old school house has now been subsumed into the house that was fashioned from the old St Mary's church and the school building, all of which were effectively attached with the church attached to our back yard and the house backing on to the School door.

My family moved from Luton to the School House in Tebworth in 1945 when I was around twelve months old. It's hard to imagine a better place to grow up, lots of children to play with and kind adults to support us.



(Old Wingfield)

We enjoyed walking along to the greengrocers run by Mr and Mrs Currington on the Hockliffe road. There was such a lovely aroma of fresh fruit and freshly-dug vegetables. Looking back it surprises me that one very popular fruit was the pomegranate which I recall being piled high.

More or less opposite the Curringtons was The Grange which was the venue for the Methodist Chapel's annual fundraising garden party. The beautiful lawns were lined with stalls selling goodies and the popular games like bowling for the pig. Young girls sold beautifully-made buttonholes displayed on trays strung on ribbons round their necks - rather like the cinema usherettes of the day. It was always a great event and popular with everyone.

Somewhere else offering an annual opportunity to spend a few pennies (this is when there were 240 pence in a £1) was the old Methodist Chapel schoolroom where they would auction off the harvest festival produce. I used to go down to the sale with shopping bag and purse and bid for carrots, peas and cabbages, proudly bearing my purchases home.

Of course, the best place to shop was the Post Office Stores at the top of The Lane. I was frequently dispatched to buy 'a quarter of back bacon' or half a pound of butter along with a couple of stamps or whatever was needed that day. The shop was run by various people over the years but my memories are of The Misses Shackelford.

They managed to stock a huge variety of goods as well as the Post Office paraphernalia, all in a tiny space, often going through to the back room to find additional stock. No Horizon machines then, nor any mechanical calculating aid, just paper and pen. My mother was adept at adding up and could spot any error, even looking at the sum upside down. I remember cringing whenever she noticed the odd halfpenny here or there incorrectly accounted!

Jane Goodyear



(An 80 year old postcard)

Rogation Walk May 25th, 2025

We plan to “Beat the Bounds” of Chalgrave again this year. We walk most of the boundary and it is the only day of the year that we are legally entitled to walk those parts of the boundary that are not a public right of way.



In the charter of AD 926 King Aethelstan granted the estate to a certain Ealdred:-

"Where the dyke shoots on to Watling Street, then along Watling Street till you come to the ford, then along the brook to the second ford. Then from the ford up to the spring and thence to the dell [small valley], and then from the dell to the dyke, and from the dyke to the second dyke to the brook and from the brook to Cynburg well. Then along the dyke to East Coten, thence to the Old Brook, and thence along the rithe [riddy or stream]. Then straight to the Highway and along the Highway to the dyke, and along the dyke to Watling Street"

We leave from the Queens Head Tebworth at 10 am sharp, stop for lunch at the Fancott Arms around 1 PM and get back into Tebworth around 5.30 PM

All are welcome. Tradition has it that we should beat the children's heads on the boundary stones to make them remember the bounds of our parish!

Well behaved dogs welcome.

You might also like to look at the 1986 survey on the history of Chalgrave. Go to chalgrave-pc.gov.uk then link to the Chalgrave-Survey-1986.pdf

For more info contact Ken Green at kentebworth@gmail.com [01525874107]

FISH & CHIP BINGO NIGHT!

SATURDAY 3RD MAY

CHALGRAVE MEMORIAL HALL TEBWORTH LU7 9QQ



Join us for a night of fun and games at our
Bingo Night! Get ready to shout "Bingo!" as we
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This is a fund raising event for the Chalgrave News



How does your garden grow?

Spring Gardening Job: Time to get busy!

Springtime in Chalgrave; a season of unpredictable weather, lambs frolicking in the fields and the smell of fresh-cut grass in the air. After a long winter, the garden is waking up and it's time for you to step in and give it the love it deserves. So, grab your gloves, dust off your trowel, and let's dive into the essential spring gardening jobs to get your outdoor space thriving.

Spring Cleaning for Your Garden

Winter can leave your garden looking like a scene from a post-apocalyptic movie; dead leaves everywhere, broken branches, and perhaps the odd rogue plant pot rolling around in the wind. Before you start planting and pruning, a good clean-up is in order.

- **Rake up leaves and debris** – If you didn't get around to it in autumn (no judgment!), now's the time. This will prevent pests and diseases from lurking in the damp undergrowth.
- **Weed patrol** – Those sneaky weeds have been waiting for you to turn your back. Grab them by the roots before they spread.
- **Scrub patios and decking** – Moss and algae love the damp UK weather, so give your surfaces a good jet wash to avoid slipping on a green ice rink.
- **Check your tools** – Rusty secateurs? Blunt shears? Sharpen them up or treat yourself to some shiny new kit.



Pruning and deadheading

Your plants have been lying dormant all winter, but now they're stretching their limbs and getting ready to grow. Give them a helping hand by tidying up the old growth.

- **Roses** – These divas of the garden need a proper cut back in early spring to encourage strong new blooms. Trim them down, cutting just above an outward-facing bud.
- **Shrubs and perennials** – Cut back dead stems from plants like lavender, buddleia and fuchsia to encourage fresh growth.
- **Deadhead early bloomers** – Daffodils, crocuses, and snowdrops will start to fade—snip off the heads to stop them wasting energy on seed production.

Norman Bryan Costin

Born in Wingfield on 7th November 1945 to Margery and Bryan Costin, he spent his early years at the family farm in Wingfield.

At the age of two, he contracted spinal tuberculosis, resulting in many of his formative years being spent in hospital. Despite this, he actively participated in the farm business and the farming community and never let it control his life enjoying regular skiing trips through the years.

After completing his education, he began his career as an accountant with Keens Shay Keens. After several years, he left the firm to establish his own practice in the village, which he maintained until 2015.

Many will remember him as a dedicated councillor for the local area from 1973 to 2017. During his tenure, he served as Chairman of the Council and was the leader of South Beds Council until it transitioned to Central Beds Council in 2009.

Throughout his public service, he was a member of numerous boards and committees, including the Anglian Water Authority for over 15 years and the Board of Governors for Luton and Dunstable Hospital. He also served as Treasurer for West Charity, which has supported many children in the parish over the years.

Others may recall him as a publican with his wife, Olive, at the Plough Inn in Wingfield in 1985, where they enjoyed being at the heart of the village for many years.

He took immense pride in serving his local community for over four decades, and his family would like to extend their gratitude to all those who have supported him over the years.

He is survived by his wife Olive, children, Charles, Neil and Carl, brother Roger, and four grandchildren.

Charles Costin



Easter event at the Memorial Hall

Easter

EGGstravaganza

Chalgrave Memorial

Hall, Tebworth
Saturday, 19th April @ 1pm



£2 entry under 5's free
Easter Bonnet
Toddlers Egg Hunt

Despair over dog owners.

Hi Chalgrave News

I have contacted the Parish Council today asking what the procedure was to request a dog poo bin to be installed near the field entrance gate next to Ivy Farm.

There has been an issue with dog owners leaving their dog poo bags on fence and gate posts and hanging the bags on the hedges and barbed wire fences, while walking their dogs over the footpaths through the fields behind Ivy Farm, Lane Farm and up through the Water Meadow, for a number of years but over the past few months it has been getting worse, there are also regular incidents where dog owners do not pick up after their dogs in these areas and a dog poo bin may encourage them to do so, we can hope and dream.

I understand that there are similar issues on the fields behind the Memorial Hall and Home Farm.

I am not sure which is worse, those who don't pick up after their dogs or those who do but expect others to dispose of the bags for them, unless they believe that there is a dog poo bag equivalent of the tooth fairy.

I counted six used poo bags today, one on the gate on the Toddington side of the water meadow, two on the track behind Lane Farm, one on the gate post between the fields at the back of the Queen's Head into the next field and two at the back of the cottages adjacent to the pond.

I don't think many dog walkers are aware of the impact of not collecting and disposing of their dogs' poo. Not only is it unsightly, unpleasant and nasty to step in but **parasites can be transmitted to livestock** through infected dog waste being left on grazing land. Some of these parasites cause diseases in livestock which can result in death of sheep, and abortion in sheep and cattle, this is especially relevant at this time of year as pregnant ewes and new born lambs start to populate the fields. The parasite can also have a similar detrimental effect on the health of wildlife so using a stick to flick the poo away from the path or into a hedge should be discouraged.

The thought of picking up after your dog may not seem pleasant, but you do get use to it and owning a dog does come with certain responsibilities.

A dog poo bag bin located by the Ivy Farm field gate or near the Pond would also assist dog walkers making their way to or coming off the fields by the entrance to Ivy farm Barns, the fields behind Home Farm,

where they have finished their walk by walking clockwise around the field and thereby not passing or have already passed the bins on Chalgrave Road and Wingfield Road.

Best regards

Mark



Tatterhill—photo sent by Ken Green



Top of the Lane just past the pond was Tatterhill farmhouse. In 1971 there was still part of the brick work remaining. The photo shows Brian Gridley with his Mum and possibly his Aunt. Barely anything remains of the house now.

Lovely winter photos sent in by Julia Marsh.



Aunt Agnes

Dear Aunt Agnes,

Your guidance is usually as sound as a bell I must say but your response to my recent letter left me both puzzled and amused.

I wrote in under the name 'Worried of Wingfield' and was seeking advice (for a friend obviously!) who wanted to know how to rekindle the spark in her marriage.

You suggested she should 'plan a romantic get-away to a cosy cabbage in the countryside'.

I must admit I found the image of a couple snuggling up in a leafy vegetable both novel and intriguing but believe you may have intended to recommend a 'cosy cottage'. While cabbages are both versatile and nutritious, they lack the amenities one might expect in a romantic retreat, such as walls, a roof, and indoor plumbing.

On a more serious note, your slip of the pen highlights the importance of clear communication. After all, suggesting someone 'break the ice' is quite different from advising them to 'break the rice' unless of course they're preparing a stir-fry!

In conclusion, Aunt Agnes, thank you for the unintended chuckle. Your column continues to bring joy and wisdom to many, even if occasionally seasoned with a dash of unintended humour.

Keep up the excellent work from your retreat in the Caribbean, and may your future advice be free from any produce-related predicaments.

*Yours,
Troubled of
Tebworth!*



Chalgrave Memorial Hall

Fees and charges effective March 2025

Rates may increase without notice ... existing bookings will be honoured

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*Hall must be locked and vacated by this time unless agreed by special arrangement

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Bookings
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USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish Council			www.chalgrave.org
Clerk	Lesley Smith	874716	clerk@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk
Chairman	Phil Parry	07831 605600	phil.parry@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk
Councillors	Ken Green	874107	Ken.green@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk
	Peter Warburton	874036	peter.warburton@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk
	Kevin Ludgate	07768 606968	kevin.ludgate@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk
	Harvey Greenwood	07932 326274	Harvey.greenwood@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk
	Jane Spiers	07803 378548	Jane.spiers@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk
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Council	Central Beds	03003 008000	www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Ward Cllr	Mark Versallion	03003 008555	Mark.versallion@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
MP	Alex Mayer	015253013901	Alex.mayer.mp@parliament.uk
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Rector	<i>To be advised</i>		
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Sports Club	Phil Parry	07831 605600	www.chalgravesportsclub.co.uk
Tennis Club	Roger Fenwick	07814 598309	
Chalgrave WI	Debbie Parry	07770 543797	Debbie.helen.parry@outlook.com
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